

The aged Father's Blessing,

Or, A choice Catalogue of

Divine Lessons;

47

Excellently expressed and set forth in six Pious and profitable P O E M S, viz.

I. The Sin of Covetousness, with the many sad and fatal Effects and Consequences that usually attend it.

II. A Caution to avoid Perjury and false Swearing, shewing the many Vices, and Inconveniences thole Sin occasion to the ruining of many.

III. The Sin of False-Dealing laid open, and sharply reproved in several Instances.

IV. The Sin of Sabbath breaking, prov'd to be the sad Occasion of many young Person's utter Ruin and Overthrow.

V. Seasonable advice to Parents in order to bring their Children up in good Education, and the fear of God.

VI. A divine Warning to disobedient Children, with suitable Encouragement to those who are kind and ready to relieve and obey their Parents in their old Age; with many other godly Exhortations, very suitable and necessary for all Sorts of People, especially the Youth of this Age.

(No. 120.)



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The Sins of Covetousness explain'd

YOU sons and daughters view my hoary head
On which my snowey locks are spread,
And mind the words that from my lips shall fall
They'll be a wholesome council to you all.

Against those Sins and aggravating crimes,
Practis'd too much in those our latter times,
To the great grief of christians far and near,
Who fain wou'd see a reformation here.

Therefore you have repeated lessons sent,
Such as may make the stoney-heart relent,
If well observ'd, receive them then in love,
And God will send a Blessing from above.

Some of the most notorious sins I'll name,
Which when you hear endeavour to reclaim,
Your lives, and learn the way of Righteousness
For why should man the laws of God transgre

Here I begin, Covetousness we find,
Has often proved destructive to Mankind,
For great Oppressors through a greedy heart,
Makes poor men suffer grief and heavy smart.

The man that's covetous before he'll bear,
The smallest loss, in wrath he will declare,
The Debtor shall in lonesome Prison lie,
Till every penny's paid, starve, live or die.

Can those be christians that afflict the poor
Nay some turn the widow out of door,
And take away their very bed likewise,
Without regard to either tears or cries.

O cruelty ! if God was so severe,
Against poor Sinners, how should we appear,
Before his Judgment seat, in the last day ;
Consider this, consider this, I pray.

And do not covet Gold to that excess,
 But seek the Lord in Truth and Righteousness,
 And you needs must cover, then embrace,
 His blessed word, and covet saving Grace.
 For that's the treasure which will never waste,
 It will keep your mind & conscience always chaste,
 From lust, revenge, and all the powers of Hell,
 Which are in numbers more than tongue can tell.
 Great *Dives* in the hottest flames did fry,
 Because he did poor *Lazarus* deny,
 The crumbs which did from his rich Table fall,
 Therefore he did too late for Mercy call.
 But the poor wretch that he did so despise,
 He plainly saw in everlasting Joys,
 Which did encrease his torture, grief, and pain,
 To think his cries and groans were all in vain,
 And dismal thoughts to know all hopes are past,
 That such Torments would ever, ever last.

L. A Lesson agains false swearing.

THE second Lesson in this book of mine,
 I pray observe, and may the powers divine
 Assist us through this wilderness of woe,
 That swearing may not prove our overthrow.
 Some wicked men according to report,
 For a reward have stood in open court,
 And gave their testimony to a Lye,
 Which is a sin of the most scarlet-dye.
 For thus they give man's lawful Rights away;
 And bring good Families to sad decay,
 And what is more to be lamented still,
 Their dear bought soul; they do with horror fill;
 How can they hope to see the face of God,
 Who

Whoin those paths of wickedness have trod,
How can they think to find a resting Place,
And sure, if not, most dismal is their case.

We read of one who when he come to die,
Bewail'd the dreadful sin of perjury,
With tears of sorrow on his dying bed,
Said he, my just deserved doom I dread.

E'er long I must before God's bar appear,
And may expect a sentence most severe,
That very sin's enough, I need no more,
But God I hope has mercy still in store.

To thee I pray the very best of friends,
Reward me not according to my sins;
But to thy mercies, which is manifold,
One glance of comfort let me here behold.

III. *A Caution against unjust and false Dealing.*

OF Perjury I mean to say no more,
For here are many other sins in store,
Which I shall mention, therefore pray attend,
To all the Lessons which I here have pen'd.

False dealing is next a thing too much in use
To much I say, for by the gross abuse,
Of conscience we are often wrong'd as we find,
By those that will not bear an honest mind.

Some men in shops false weights and measure
By which they do a greater profit reap, [keep
Beyond the upright rule of faith and truth,
This shows their persons false and most unjust.

Some men trust to their dealers then they may
If most unjust secure a larger pay,
Which pleases him that takes delight to cheat,
Alas! to him the stolen water's sweet.

But ill got wealth like to the moth or rust,

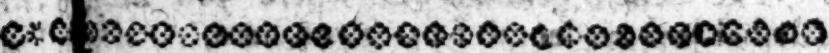
Shall

Shall soon consume and fly like summer's dust,
While that which is obtain'd by upright care,
Like hammer'd brass to polish'd steel shall wear.

Besides, false dealers when they come to die,
When they on the death bed of sorrow lie;
Where can they think their precious souls shall go
After this life when they have acted so.

Consider this, think of a future state,
And do not wrong thy neighbour in his weight,
Or measure, for as sure as here we live,
We after death a true account must give.

Of all our actions whither good or ill,
Consider this and labour to fulfil,
The law of God, in truth and righteousness,
So shall you everlasting joys possess.



V. The Sin of Sabbath breaking sharply reprov'd.

FROM weight and measures now I take my way,
To treat of the Religious Sabbath day;
Which is not kept so circumspect and pure,
As it should be, which does our Grief procure.
For God enjoins us by a strict command,
To keep the Sabbath holy, but we stand,
In opposition to his righteousness,
Breaking the sabbath, and his laws transgress.
God in the hearts of Rulers order'd here,
To keep the Sabbath with a holy fear;
But wicked Persons wickedly run on,
Breaking thro' all the laws of God and Man.
Instead of going to the house of Prayer,
They range the groves and valleys here and there,
Having small veneration for that day,
Except it be to frolick, sport or play.
In Taverns, Ale-houses, overflowing bowls,

Feasting

*Feasting their bodies to destroy their souls,
Those souls for which our blessed Redeemer dy'd,
That after death he might be glorify'd.*

*Why should his bleeding drops be shed in vain,
Why will you still the Sabbath day prophane;
O serve the Lord in righteousness and truth,
Give him thy strength, give him thy blooming youth.*

*So will you soon be qualified with grace,
Preparing for thy everlasting place,
Of endless joys, then keep the Sabbath day,
Observe your christian duty, watch and pray.*

V. Parents' indulgent Care over their Children.

SINCE I have instructed you to keep, [reap,
The blessed Sabbath day where you may
Celestial joys, at length I bring you here,
The love of parents to their children dear.

The joy and darling of the parents' heart,
And fearing death should send his fatal dart,
The dear and tender mother can't forbear,
To show the signs of sorrow, grief and care.

How as the tender mother broke her rest,
Seeing the pretty Babe with grief oppress'd,
When in the bud or early blooming years,
Bathing the Infant's cheeks with pearly tears.

But when the gracious hand of providence,
Restores to health, brings it to life and sense,
A pleasant harmony doth soon begin,
All griefs are gone as if they ne'er had been.

And when the babe to riper years doth grow,
As being strong enough to stand or go,
The loving Mother doth her joys express,
With pleasant notes and hearty thankfulness.

This passes on for twelve or fourteen years.

And

And then perhaps a second flood of tears,
 Falls from their eyes to see their stubborn ways,
 And many things make short their parents' Days.
 When they have brought 'em up in tender care,
 And ne'er the loss if then they stubborn are,
 Nay, disobedient to them all,
 Well may the tears of grief and sorrow fall.

Down from their eyes, as messengers of woe,
 O Children, do not grieve your parents so,
 For if you cause their aged hearts to bleed,
 You'll find that God will recompence the deed.

VI. A Poem of seasonable Advice, &c.

COME sons and daughters whither rich or poor,
 The ever blessed name of God adore;
 Honour likewise your lovely parents dear,
 And you will have a blessing never fear.

The most obedient children thrives the best,
 Because at any time they ne'er transgressed,
 While those that grieve their dear indulgent friends,
 Are often brought to grief and shameful ends.

Some children does their aged friends maintain,
 Out of their own proper labour, care and pain,
 And unto them their true obedience show,
 Such children shall not unrewarded go.

For God will certainly increase their store,
 Who love and likewise feeds their parents poor,
 For what they give proves like the best of grain,
 When sowed, springs up loaded crops again.
 While those that brings their parents to distress,
 By hunting after pride and wickedness;
 Shall never any such blessing have,
 But often sins themselves into the grave.

God's chief commands oblige us to obey,
 And our aged parents when their heads grow grey,

By doing which we've promised length of days,
And God will comfort us in all our ways.

But if a daughter or ungodly son,
Should prove unkind, as some have lately done,
God's vengeance will overtake them in their prime
Such can't expect to live out half their time.

Most sad examples we have lately seen,
On children who have disobedient been,
By sudden fate some have been stricken dead,
And others forc'd by want to beg their bread.

None can love God, and hate their parents dear,
Who brought him up with tenderness and care,
Oh! horrid crime! no punishment amiss,
For such a base ungracious child as this.

Here I have set before you good and bad,
Learn of the best, that blessings may be had,
Honour your kind and loving parents still,
And then it will your lives with comfort fill.

Dear friends and parents buy this little book,
That both your sons and daughters on it may look,
Upon it Morning Noon and Night,
So they in time may place their chief delight,
Upon those duties which are written here,
A path that leads into religious fear,
Of that great God who is our careful Guide,
From Sin, to Saints and Angels glorify'd.

Let children learn this little book by heart,
So they in time may act the childrens' part,
In true obedience to the Lord above,
And take their dear indulgent parents' love.

